

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, January 29, 1958

The house met at eleven o'clock.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Second report of standing committee on external affairs.—Mr. White.

STARRED QUESTIONS

CANADIAN FLAG—RECOMMENDATIONS OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Question No. 60—Mr. Hansell:

1. Has the government considered the recommendations of the joint parliamentary committee of 1946 on a design for a distinctive Canadian flag?
2. If so, have steps been taken by the government to bring down legislation implementing the committee's recommendations?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the answer to question No. 1 is no, and the answer to the second part of the question is that no consideration has been given in this regard.

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES, ONTARIO

Question No. 61—Mr. Henderson:

1. How many unemployed were registered in (a) the province of Ontario; (b) the areas served by the Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor, North Bay and Pembroke offices, respectively, of the unemployment insurance commission, on or about the 9th day of January, 1958?

2. How many unemployed were registered in (a) the province of Ontario; (b) the areas served by the Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor, North Bay and Pembroke offices, respectively, of the unemployment insurance commission on or about the 9th day of January, 1957?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the question asked by the hon. member for Kingston is as follows. The numbers of persons registered at January 9, 1958, and at January 10, 1957, at local offices of the unemployment insurance commission in the province of Ontario and at local offices serving the areas of Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor, North Bay and Pembroke were:

	January 9, 1958	January 10, 1957
Province of Ontario	241,926	151,079
Toronto	55,364	38,351
Hamilton	19,159	9,875
Windsor	16,246	8,277
North Bay	3,063	1,895
Pembroke	2,541	1,674

COST OF TRADE MISSION TO U.K.

Question No. 62—Mr. McMillan:

What is the cost to the Canadian taxpayer to date, of the recent buying mission of some 50 persons and staff to the United Kingdom, and what further costs are anticipated?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the answer to this question is not yet available, as all the accounts have not been received. With regard to further costs, we will have to pay for the printing of the report which is in course of preparation.

Mr. Speaker: The question stands.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT, 1957—SECTION 61

Question No. 64—Mr. Castleden:

With reference to section 61 of the Auditor General's report, 1957:

1. What is the name of the firm which received the \$119,200 contract to build a naval vessel for the Department of Defence Production?
2. Were tenders called for this contract through advertising?
3. What officers of the department signed the progress certificate under which the contractor was paid for work?
4. What was the total amount paid to the contractor under this contract?
5. Was the contract finally cancelled?
6. If so, what percentage of the work was completed at time of cancellation?
7. What is being done with the incompleting vessel?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, there are seven parts to this question, the answers to which are as follows:

1. Withey's Shipyard Limited, Silva Bay, Gabriola island, B.C.
2. The original requirement, of which this vessel is a part, covered seven harbour craft and four clearance diving vessels. Tenders were invited on the total requirement on August 7, 1951. After examination of the tenders it appeared that the specifications for the clearance diving vessels were less than adequate. Accordingly on October 1, 1951, tenders were recalled for the seven harbour craft only, and contracts subsequently awarded for such vessels.

The specifications for the clearance diving vessels were rewritten. Rather than recalling tenders the clearance diving vessels were allocated, such allocation being made on the recommendation of the Canadian maritime commission and limited to those companies